

## Senate Bill No. 175

### CHAPTER 250

An act to amend Sections 4022, 4067, 4170, 4171, and 4175 of the Business and Professions, relating to veterinary drugs.

[Approved by Governor September 1, 2003. Filed  
with Secretary of State September 2, 2003.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 175, Kuehl. Veterinary drugs: prescriptions by veterinarians.

(1) Existing law, the Pharmacy Law, defines a dangerous drug but excludes properly labeled veterinary drugs from the definition.

This bill would modify this definition to delete the exception for veterinary drugs.

(2) Existing law authorizes specified licensed individuals to prescribe dangerous drugs and authorizes each licensing entity to enforce the provisions of the Pharmacy Law regarding the prescription of dangerous drugs.

This bill would authorize a licensed veterinarian to prescribe a dangerous drug and would authorize the Veterinary Medical Board to enforce the provisions of the Pharmacy Law regarding the prescription of dangerous drugs.

(3) Existing law requires the California State Board of Pharmacy to notify the appropriate licensing entity if the board receives a complaint relating to dangerous drugs dispensed by a prescriber.

This bill would require the board to notify the Veterinary Medical Board if it receives a complaint relating to dangerous drugs dispensed by a veterinarian.

(4) Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to knowingly violate the Pharmacy Law.

Because violations of this bill would be a misdemeanor, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 4022 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4022. “Dangerous drug” or “dangerous device” means any drug or device unsafe for self-use in humans or animals, and includes the following:

(a) Any drug that bears the legend: “Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription,” “Rx only,” or words of similar import.

(b) Any device that bears the statement: “Caution: federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a \_\_\_\_\_,” “Rx only,” or words of similar import, the blank to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or order use of the device.

(c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006.

SEC. 2. Section 4067 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4067. (a) No person or entity shall dispense or furnish, or cause to be dispensed or furnished, dangerous drugs or dangerous devices, as defined in Section 4022, on the Internet for delivery to any person in this state without a prescription issued pursuant to a good faith prior examination of a human or animal for whom the prescription is meant if the person or entity either knew or reasonably should have known that the prescription was not issued pursuant to a good faith prior examination of a human or animal, or if the person or entity did not act in accordance with Section 1761 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a violation of this section may subject the person or entity that has committed the violation to either a fine of up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per occurrence pursuant to a citation issued by the board or a civil penalty of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per occurrence.

(c) The Attorney General may bring an action to enforce this section and to collect the fines or civil penalties authorized by subdivision (b).

(d) For notifications made on and after January 1, 2002, the Franchise Tax Board, upon notification by the Attorney General or the board of a final judgment in an action brought under this section, shall subtract the amount of the fine or awarded civil penalties from any tax refunds or lottery winnings due to the person who is a defendant in the action using the offset authority under Section 12419.5 of the Government Code, as delegated by the Controller, and the processes as established by the



Franchise Tax Board for this purpose. That amount shall be forwarded to the board for deposit in the Pharmacy Board Contingent Fund.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the unlicensed practice of pharmacy, or to limit the authority of the board to enforce any other provision of this chapter.

(f) For the purposes of this section, “good faith prior examination” includes the requirements for a physician and surgeon in Section 2242 and the requirements for a veterinarian in Section 2032.1 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

SEC. 3. Section 4170 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4170. (a) No prescriber shall dispense drugs or dangerous devices to patients in his or her office or place of practice unless all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The dangerous drugs or dangerous devices are dispensed to the prescriber’s own patient, and the drugs or dangerous devices are not furnished by a nurse or physician attendant.

(2) The dangerous drugs or dangerous devices are necessary in the treatment of the condition for which the prescriber is attending the patient.

(3) The prescriber does not keep a pharmacy, open shop, or drugstore, advertised or otherwise, for the retailing of dangerous drugs, dangerous devices, or poisons.

(4) The prescriber fulfills all of the labeling requirements imposed upon pharmacists by Section 4076, all of the recordkeeping requirements of this chapter, and all of the packaging requirements of good pharmaceutical practice, including the use of childproof containers.

(5) The prescriber does not use a dispensing device unless he or she personally owns the device and the contents of the device, and personally dispenses the dangerous drugs or dangerous devices to the patient packaged, labeled, and recorded in accordance with paragraph (4).

(6) The prescriber, prior to dispensing, offers to give a written prescription to the patient that the patient may elect to have filled by the prescriber or by any pharmacy.

(7) The prescriber provides the patient with written disclosure that the patient has a choice between obtaining the prescription from the dispensing prescriber or obtaining the prescription at a pharmacy of the patient’s choice.

(8) A certified nurse-midwife who functions pursuant to a standardized procedure or protocol described in Section 2746.51, a nurse practitioner who functions pursuant to a standardized procedure described in Section 2836.1, or protocol, or a physician assistant who



functions pursuant to Section 3502.1, may hand to a patient of the supervising physician and surgeon a properly labeled prescription drug prepackaged by a physician and surgeon, a manufacturer as defined in this chapter, or a pharmacist.

(b) The Medical Board of California, the State Board of Optometry, the Dental Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the Board of Registered Nursing, the Veterinary Medical Board, and the Physician Assistant Committee shall have authority with the California State Board of Pharmacy to ensure compliance with this section, and those boards are specifically charged with the enforcement of this chapter with respect to their respective licensees.

(c) “Prescriber,” as used in this section, means a person, who holds a physician’s and surgeon’s certificate, a license to practice optometry, a license to practice dentistry, a license to practice veterinary medicine, or a certificate to practice podiatry, and who is duly registered by the Medical Board of California, the State Board of Optometry, the Dental Board of California, the Veterinary Medical Board, or the Board of Osteopathic Examiners of this state.

SEC. 4. Section 4171 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4171. (a) Section 4170 shall not prohibit the furnishing of a limited quantity of samples by a prescriber, if the prescriber dispenses the samples to the patient in the package provided by the manufacturer, no charge is made to the patient therefor, and an appropriate record is entered in the patient’s chart.

(b) Section 4170 shall not apply to clinics, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1204 or subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code, to programs licensed pursuant to Sections 11876, 11877, and 11877.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or to a prescriber dispensing parenteral chemotherapeutic agents, biologicals, or delivery systems used in the treatment of cancer.

SEC. 5. Section 4175 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

4175. (a) The California State Board of Pharmacy shall promptly forward to the appropriate licensing entity, including the Medical Board of California, the Veterinary Medical Board, the Dental Board of California, the State Board of Optometry, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the Board of Registered Nursing, or the Physician Assistant Committee, all complaints received related to dangerous drugs or dangerous devices dispensed by a prescriber, certified nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant pursuant to Section 4170.

(b) All complaints involving serious bodily injury due to dangerous drugs or dangerous devices dispensed by prescribers, certified



nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants pursuant to Section 4170 shall be handled by the Medical Board of California, the Dental Board of California, the State Board of Optometry, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the Board of Registered Nursing, the Veterinary Medical Board, or the Physician Assistant Committee as a case of greatest potential harm to a patient.

SEC. 6. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

